

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 2-16 remain pending. Claims 2, 4-6 and 8-16 have been amended. The drawings have been amended to add text labels to the boxes illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the present application is requested.

As regards the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated December 4, 2003, the Notice indicates that the amendments to the drawings were not properly presented, apparently because the replacement sheet was labeled "REPLACEMENT SHEET" at the bottom of the sheet, rather than at the top. Applicants submit herewith a new replacement sheet labeled "REPLACEMENT SHEET" at the top, rather than at the bottom.

As regards the final Office Action dated October 4, 2003, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 5 and 9 include allowable subject matter. Claims 5 and 9 have been amended to be rewritten in independent form. Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-16 depend (directly or indirectly) from one of claims 5 or 9. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-16 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/00466084 to Steele et al. Claim 1 has been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-16 depend from one of claims 5 or 9. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10-16 should now be withdrawn.

Each of the issues raised by the Examiner has been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims (2-16) are in condition for allowance. Passage to issuance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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